

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 An automated kitchen apparatus determines a time until expiration
of a food product. In one embodiment, the kitchen apparatus determines the time
until expiration by receiving a start signal indicating that a food product is
available to sell. Such a start signal may be generated by a timer on a warming bin
that is initiated when a food product is placed in the warming bin. By measuring
the elapsed time since the start signal was received, the time until expiration is
10 determined. Based on the time until expiration, the automated kitchen apparatus
sets the minimum price of that food product. Customers at a POS terminal may
then purchase the aged food product for the minimum price. In one embodiment,
an offer describing the food product and its minimum price is displayed on the
POS terminal. In another embodiment, the customer is offered the food product
15 for his change due, if that change due is not less than the minimum price.